

MAR 22 1996

NEWS

Columbian Players to perform musical. See page 3

Features

Student teachers are profiled. See page 5

SPORTS

Baseball opens season. See page 7

Thursday

Volume 59, Issue 10

March 21, 1996

The Observer

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE • Rensselaer, Indiana

1996 Commencement agenda is announced

by Erin Roach

In less than two months, another group of seniors will say farewell to St. Joseph's. Approximately 137 students will be recognized at the ceremony which will take place May 5th.

Many people have been working diligently on the plans that are required for graduation, and they are finally nearing completion, according to Dr. Bernard Parker, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Parker is in charge of the graduation budget as well as helping with the basic organization of the whole event. However, Dr. Parker notes that there are many other individuals who are involved in the planning and preparation for this important weekend.

The graduation weekend events will begin with a brunch and dance on Friday, May 3rd. They will continue with a picnic and President's reception and dance on Saturday and a Sunday brunch. The weekend's events will conclude with the ceremony and reception on Sunday.

The actual commencement ceremony will be held outside, as was done in

previous years, but there will be a slight change to the reception area. The Core Building will be utilized for the first time instead of the outside tent that was used last year.

Senior Lali Morfin is looking forward to this change. "I think the new atmosphere will be exciting. We were here for the construction of the Core Building, and it will be cool to be

the class that starts this tradition."

Fr. Barry Fischer, C.P.P.S. who is an alumni of Saint Joseph's College and the Superior General of the Society of the Precious Blood, will be the speaker and recipient of an Honorary Doctorate. In addition, Michael Vallone, otherwise known as "Uncle Mike" will be honored with the Medal of Saint

Gaspar. This medal is given to the alumni who has provided outstanding service to the college.

Senior Dave Rettker said, "I feel that Uncle Mike is very deserving of this award. He constantly gives his money and time to St. Joseph's, and he should be recognized for it."

Overall, the idea of graduation is one that many

people are looking forward to, but it is also an idea that brings about mixed emotions for many students. Some seniors may feel that they have waited forever for graduation day. As Rick Kriegbaum simply states, "Finally".

On the other hand, others are not ready to leave and feel that graduation day is coming too quickly. As senior Jenny McGee says, "We're not here for a long time; we're here for a good time."

mands, refusing to negotiate with a terrorist organization but in 1985, an Anglo-Irish agreement was reached and marked the start of peace talks. In 1993, the Downing Street Declaration was issued by British Prime Minister, John Major and Irish Prime Minister, Albert Reynolds. This declaration stated that all-party peace talks would begin with the cessation of violence. On August 31, 1994, the IRA announced that they would stop the bombings and with this, the peace talks started.

I never imagined that this issue would affect me in any way, but it has. When I first arrived in England, the cease-fire was active and we really had nothing to worry about. In fact, all the newspapers were writing on how the peace talks were going and for a short time it looked like the peace would last. Then the week I was supposed to take a trip to London, was the week the bomb

--Continued on page 3

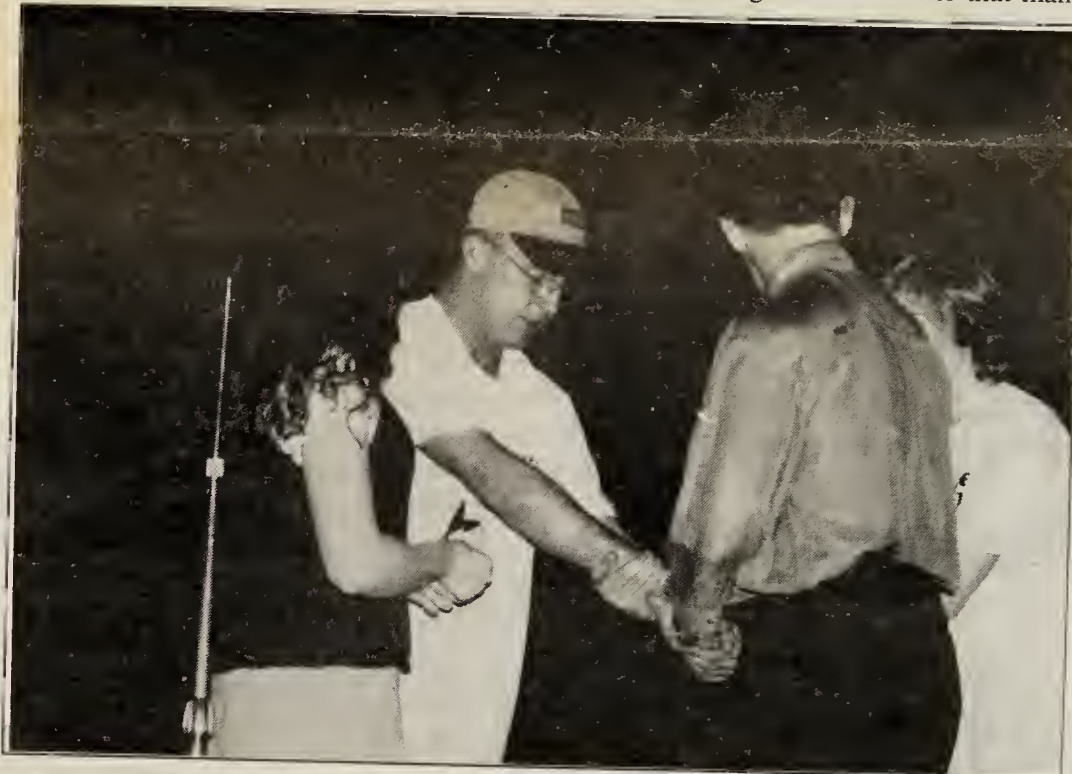


photo by Rachel Hempel

Freshman Kim Grote, Sophomores James Sedam and Andy Hicks, and Senior Jamie Martens practice a scene from the upcoming musical "1940's Radio Hour."

SJC student responds to Anglo-Irish conflicts

by Klaudia Janek

A bomb went off in the London Docklands about 3 weeks ago injuring hundreds; another bomb went off in one of London's famous Double Decker buses, killing one person and injuring another person. These two in-

cidents ended an 18 month long cease-fire between the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Protestants in Northern Ireland.

The center of the conflict stems from religion. Ireland is Catholic and Northern Ireland is mostly Protestant.

If Northern Ireland became part of Ireland, the Protestants worry that being in the minority, will cause them to be discriminated against. However, the Catholics in Northern Ireland are not happy being the minority in that region and would like to see them-

selves a part of Ireland. The IRA is based in Belfast and its mission is to have one united Ireland. They are trying to achieve their goal through terrorist activity in order to gain the attention of Parliament. For years, Parliament tried to ignore their de-

Student feels there is a lack of Catholic values at SJC

by William Shannon

I volunteered to do an editorial/opinion piece on the broken status of the stamp machine in the school's post office. This topic was, I was sure, of great concern to the student body, and one that should be explained.

But, as I made my way over towards the post office to "get the scoop" on the stamp machine, I saw it. The Saint Joseph's College Chapel. There it was, standing in all of its glory, a symbol more than a building.

This structure has, since 1909, symbolized the commitment to Catholic education that has been the proud tradition of Saint Joseph's College since the first pioneering-Precious Blood missionaries built the Indian Normal School over a century ago.

In my reflecting, another feeling came over me, a feeling of confusion and wondering. There was one overwhelmingly clear ques-

tion: why are we now, as a Catholic college, less Catholic than ever in our past?

I think that this question, which is one that has occurred to many members of the student body, can be analyzed in two ways: faculty/administration and student body.

First, the faculty. At one time, the school was staffed entirely by clergy, ensuring that all subject matter and classes would be imbued with the Catholic traditions and ways of thinking. As this century wore on, it became clear that, for lack of vocations and for practical reasons, there needed to be lay faculty at Saint Joseph's College.

When this lay faculty began to be implemented, no thought was given to the Catholic message and the teachings of the Catholic Church being a part of this new faculty's work on campus. This has led, in part, to the secularization of some

courses and courses of study.

In some cases ideas could be introduced that are diametrically opposed to the thinking and the rationale of the Catholic Church that this school is supposed to strengthen and serve. I do not see how this could possibly lead to a "Catholic education."

Therefore, when making staff choices, searches should be made for qualified, Catholic educators who are well-informed in their respective fields, as well as in the ways and ideas of the Catholic Church.

This is not, however, to discount faculty of other denominations and faiths, or of no faith, but in my opinion preference should be given to those candidates who can best integrate their subject into a Catholic framework.

With respect to courses, there seems to be one glaring deficiency on the list of majors offered: theology. I know that there are seminars out there that offer degree programs in theology, but this being a Catholic college, the studying of the Catholic Church for a degree should take its place with the other disciplines that offer degrees. Theology was once referred to as the "queen of the sciences." Where has she gone now?

On the subject of the student body, the same preference should be given to Catholic students as should be given to Catholic faculty. I must reiterate that NON-CATHOLICS WOULD NOT BE OUTRIGHT EXCLUDED.

However, Catholic students would be given first

preference in the final admissions decision. This would work towards providing a Catholic atmosphere on campus that seems a bit lacking at the current time.

Campus events that offer the opportunity to enrich one's Catholicism should be promoted and encouraged. Campus Ministry already does an excellent job in extending the faith on campus, but as with any volunteer organization, there is a core of dedicated members who do all of the planning and attend all of the events.

The mass, the cornerstone of the Catholic faith, should receive greater promotion. There should be posted mass and other special service schedules posted in accessible places, so faith events are well known to all.

There are other Catholic organizations that could benefit the campus community. The Knights of Columbus, the largest fraternal organization of Catholic men in the world, has councils on other college campuses, and there used to be one at Saint Joseph's.

This organization helps to deepen faith and promote brotherhood amongst Catholic men, and its auxiliary Marian organizations do the same for women. These are a few examples of ways to re-Catholicize Saint Joseph's College by the use of activities.

All Catholics are called to be defenders of the faith in one way or another. Are we living up to that call from God, or is it falling on deaf ears? The Chapel stands there, still and waiting for the answer.

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"What's that? Oh, you're joking, you're joking. I get it. Good one Bob."

Editor-in-Chief
Rachel Barlage

Managing Editor
DeAnn Hazzard

Copy Editor
Amy Moss

Features Editor
DeAnn Hazzard

News Editor
Jeffrey Kirch

Opinion Editor
Rachel Barlage

Sports Editor
Emily Karol

Stuff Editor
Rachel Barlage

Advertising Staff
Chris Zumstein
Becky Johnson

Reporters
Kathleen Brass
Erin Breetzke
Kim Chrustowsky
Kevin Collins
Julia Garcia
Klaudia Janek
Becky Johnson
Vanessa Mangiaforte
Peggy McLeish
Elizabeth Lieb
John Osborne
Jill Peterson
Ashley Pierce
Erin Roach
Jamie Riberto
William Shannon
Faith Sievers
James Wirtes
Brian Zimmer

Photographers
Rachel Hempel
Jen Palecek

Faculty Facilitator
Dr. Charles Kerlin

Publisher
Dr. Albert Shannon

Letters to the Editor:
Letters must be between 350-500 words. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number. If the author of the letter does not want his/her name used, include a pseudonym to be printed. The Editorial Board can elect not to print a letter that conflicts with or violates the newspaper Editorial Policy or College Doctrine. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be e-mailed to Rachel Barlage or delivered to our office located in Dwenger Hall.

"Big Band" music comes to Saint Joseph's

by Becky Johnson

Saint Joseph's College is featuring the hit musical "The 1940's Radio Hour". Many musical classics will be portrayed such as "I've Got a Gal from Kalamazoo" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B".

According to Newsweek, the play "Has a real feeling for the pre-TV days when your ears were a receiving set for the whole world that opened inside your imagination like a flower of sound." The play is about the times at the Variety Club Cavalcade show.

John Rahe remembers when this very musical (his first musical at Saint Joseph's) was performed on stage. In fact, this was Father Lawrence Heiman's last time on stage as Director of the band. Professor Rahe is "very impressed with some of the

"big bands" that are in the musical".

"The songs are more difficult to learn because of the fact that every song is performed by a different composer," commented Rahe.

"The fun is in the music of old songs and commercials" stated Sophomore Matthew Owens.

"The blocking (movement on stage) of characters makes it even more challenging in the setup of the play. In most productions each scene gives time for the non-actors to get ready for the stage. This particular musical does no such thing, that is the fun part. Everyone is always on stage," stated Rahe.

Owens said, "This is a different type of musical...the band is always on stage with you." Currently, things look as though they are right on schedule.

When asked for a particular scene to look for in the play, Rahe responded, "that the whole play is something to be watched. One incident in particular involves a small fire in the control booth."

The musical can be seen on March 28, 29 and 30 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Pro-Life group plans activities

by Julia Garcia

"We felt there was a need to have a group on campus that was interested in preserving the sanctity of life," stated Brian DiPaolo, junior. This was one of the reasons for the beginning of the Pro-Life Group on campus that has captured the attention of students as well as faculty.

Although the new group has only started at Saint Joseph's College, the Pro-Life Group is currently "in the process of becoming an official group on campus," stated DiPaolo, one of the students responsible for the initiation of the group.

Sara Kloczek, also involved with the beginning of the Pro-Life Group at SJC, was inspired through her experiences in high school, in which she was active in the Right-to-Life movement. Both DiPaolo and Kloczek noticed that there existed no such group at this Catholic, Christian campus and decided to start one of their own with

the guidance of Brother Hugh Henderson, faculty sponsor.

"So far we've gotten a good response from students," stated DiPaolo. The Pro-Life Group currently has about 10-15 members.

Faculty have also expressed an interest in the group. Dr. David Chesak, Professor John Groppe, and Dr. Robert Garrity have supported the group.

"My interest in the group lies in the fact that abortion is a direct and deliberate attack upon the life of an unborn child, and that the pro-abortion mentality threatens our nation's moral fibre more than any other danger. This mentality cannot be hidden under the euphemism 'choice,' since one of its choices is a direct assault upon innocent human life," stated Garrity.

"We've had a few meetings this year to discuss what type of focus our group is going to take," said DiPaolo.

The group has already

planned and discussed activities for the future. "We want to increase the awareness of the importance of preserving life," stated DiPaolo. The Pro-Life Group intends to invite guests speakers to discuss abortion issues and the other options that are available to pregnant women. A letter writing campaign is also on the agenda of the Pro-Life Group. The group also plans on holding prayer services and rosaries.

"We also plan on placing a memorial stone by the chapel or in the Grotto that will be dedicated to the memory of aborted babies," stated Jeffrey Kirch, sophomore, who was also responsible for the formation of the group.

"We are looking to involve all people on campus—not simply students, but also faculty and staff," added DiPaolo. "If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact Jeffrey Kirch, Sara Kloczek, or Brian DiPaolo.

Campus Ministry offers Lenten services

by Ashley Pierce

Lent is special time for many students and faculty members. Junior Jason Grzegorek commented, "It is a time when you put into perspective the things that you need and that are important, especially with giving something up."

Several Lenten activities have been planned on campus. All during Lent, Daily Mass is at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the College Chapel and on Wednesdays, there is "Mass at Midweek" at 9:00 p.m. in Gaspar Center. Reconciliation is Wednesday evenings at 9:45 and Friday afternoons at 5:00. "We also have a Way of the Cross every Wednesday at 6:00," noted Sr. Linda Kors. The Way of the Cross is held in the Grotto, weather permitting, or otherwise in the College Chapel. Sr. Linda commented that one of the

things she has noticed during Lent is the increase in "how many people go to the masses, especially on Ash Wednesday."

Easter Sunday ends a period of preparation for the feast of Easter. This 40 day period of prayer and fasting, called Lent, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The Lenten fast commemorates Christ's 40 day fast in the desert.

The week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. During Holy Week, church services remind one of the last days of Christ's life on earth. Palm Sunday marks Christ's palm-strewn entry into Jerusalem. Holy Thursday, also called Maundy Thursday, marks the Last Supper. Good Friday marks Christ's crucifixion; and Easter Sunday, his resurrection.

---Anglo-Irish Conflict continued

went off. We were strongly advised by the Dean of Harlaxton not to go to London because of the current situation. But, after talking to a few British people and becoming aware of the fact that it was unlikely that we would be the targets, we decided to go anyway.

I immediately noticed the change that took place in London. Security was increased everywhere especially around Westminster, where all the government buildings are located and

posters were up everywhere reminding people to be aware of bags and packages laying around. We were searched almost everywhere we went. Luckily nothing has happened since that weekend and peace talks are once again in the process of beginning.

Dr. Cliff Pettifor, a professor at Harlaxton, said, "It will probably be a long time before a complete peace is reached" because of all the issues involved.

This past week, peace demonstrations took place in

both Dublin and Belfast. The demonstrators were mostly younger college students, both Catholic and Protestant numbering 50,000 and 20,000 respectively. They were trying to show the IRA and the Ulster Unionists that they want the violence to stop from both sides. They also wanted the world to see that the majority of both populations want peace.

Reporters note: to get a better idea of the emotional side of this issue watch the movie "In the Name of the Father".

The Faculty Fine Arts Committee and the
Prairie Arts Council Present
The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra
Performing
Popular Classical and Contemporary
Selections
Sunday March 24, 1996 at 2 PM
Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse
Saint Joseph's College
Rensselaer, Indiana
Free w/ID to SJC Faculty, Staff and Students

Are lessons of childhood heroes forgotten?

by Peggy McLeish

As children, we were expected to all have heroes, whether they were sports stars, movie stars, or people we personally knew. Heroes, role models, idols, they are all parts of the American Dream that children are socialized with. Common questions people ask younger children are, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and "Who is your hero?"

The main theme of every superhero cartoon episode, which is where most of our generations' heroes reside, was the triumph of good over evil and of justice. However, now is the time in our lives when we begin to question if we are following through with our American Dream, and if we are living up to our heroic ideals. Think of your life and if you, like your hero, promote justice. Would Spiderman be proud to have you as his faithful devotee now, in your grown state?

Students Speak out: Heroes of the past

by Peggy McLeish and Vanessa Mangiaforte

Heroes are a major theme for the lives of small children. We have almost all gone through one or more people that we looked up to at different times in our lives.

The following are answers given by members of the Saint Joe's community when asked who their heroes were.

"My fourth grade teacher, Mrs. McDaniel, because I learned a lot from her and she had a good teaching style."
—Shannon McDonald

"He-Man was my idol because he was a bad mother@#\$\$%&*"
—Rush Lechner

"Johnny Bench, a catcher for the Cincinnati Reds baseball team."
—Matt Owens

"Spiderman, because he could jump around on the buildings..."
—Walter Perkins

"Evel-Knievel was my hero

because he was fearless."
—Dave Rettker

"My grandfather was my hero when I was young because he knew everything. I could go to talk to him about anything."
—Sr. Linda Kors

"The Dukes of Hazzard boys - Bo and Luke - I can even still sing the theme song."
—Mike Tackett

Our thoughts:
Vanessa: "My hero was my brother Jim. Ever since I could remember, I wanted to grow up and be just like him because he was funny and always took me places. We did things together that were kept secret from Mom."
Peggy: "I always thought of my great-great-uncle as my hero. He was a farmer and lived almost completely off of the land. He was also very strong, and I wanted to be able to throw the hay bales like he could."

These statements were forwarded over email: Hope you enjoy them!

"Be A Kid Again..."

Give yourself a gold star for everything you do today.

Dot all your "i"'s with smiley faces

Sing into your hairbrush.

Grow a milk mustache.

Smile back at the man in the moon.

Read the funnies; throw the rest of the paper away.

Dunk your cookies.

Ask somebody if their refrigerator is running.

Play a game where you make up the rules as you go along.

Order with eyes that are bigger than your stomach.

Eat ice cream for breakfast.

Open a pack of cupcakes and give one to a friend even though you wanted both for yourself.

Pretend your bread rolls are tap dancing.

Step carefully over sidewalk cracks.

Change into some play clothes.

Try to get someone to trade you a better sandwich.

Have a staring contest with your cat.

Kiss a frog just in case.

Give someone a "Hug-around-the-neck."

Blow the wrapper off a straw.

Refuse to eat crusts.

Stick your head out the car window and moo if you see a cow.

Throw something and when it lands make a cool exploding bomb noise.

Giggle a lot for no real reason.

Make a face the next time somebody tells you "no."

Giggle at nude statues in a museum.

Make a clover chain for someone you really "like-like."

Do that tap-someone-on-the-shoulder-while-you-stand-on-their-other-side-and-they-turn-around-and-no-one's-there-thing.

Fuss a little, then take a nap.

Classifieds

Where is your money going?

Come hear David Sokol speak at the Senate Meeting on March 25 at 9p.m. in the Ballroom.

Bennett and Justin Beach Volleyball Tournament

March 30-31: four on four co-ed teams

Wanted:

Citizens to populate a new upstart nation. This nation will be conveniently located between South America and Africa. Citizens will enjoy the following:

--sunny days and warm nights

--peace of mind from knowing that you and your country are the best in the world

--a good job and a good life!

Potential citizens must meet the following qualifications:

--belief in Manifest Destiny

--free from genetic impurities, we test

--bachelor or higher level of education

We will be accepting applications until June 25. For more information contact: Edward Balas @ ext. 5383.

Student Teachers: *Preparing for the future*

by William Shannon

A wise sage once mused that "the way to learn something is to do it." This idea of a "baptism by fire" holds true for many of the professions that people train for at the college level.

These professions require a period of internship, which is basically on the job training, and the beginning of the final synthesis of theory and practice that are the cornerstone of any approach to any profession.

The teaching profession is no different, and at Saint Joseph's College there are many pre-professional teachers enrolled in the student teaching program through the Education Department.

The 1995-1996 Saint Joseph's College Catalogue states that the purpose of the teacher education program is to "prepare the teacher as a Christian professional." This program also includes, according to the Catalogue "field

and...performance in a variety of school settings."

Expectations of prospective teachers, along with others, help to assure that the teachers turned out by the program at Saint Joseph's College are among the finest in the nation.

What does a student teacher do?

Senior Brigid Boos, a student secondary-school English teacher, said that the duties involve all of the regular duties of a full-time classroom teacher. This includes everything from preparing lessons to grading papers to enforcing classroom discipline.

Boos, when asked about the time commitment, said that it required about 7 1/2 hours a day at the school, and an extra two hours elsewhere for other planning and administrative tasks.

What are the benefits of this experience to a new teacher?

Boos said that "it is

the final opportunity to apply all that you have learned and to experience the "real world" before you actually have to venture into the real thing." This "dress rehearsal" for the professional world of the teacher is essential to allow the student to experiment with lesson planning and classroom style, which are key elements to the success of any new teacher.

People often talk of teaching as one of the most "trustworthy" professions. What is the draw of this centuries-old avocation.

"Teaching is never a dull job, that is what is great about it," said Boos when asked about unique experiences while student teaching.

All have been effected by a teacher, and teachers do not learn how to "get to" students without practice. Student teaching gives this essential practice to all of those who dare to teach.



photo by Rachel Hempel

Senior Susan Banner diligently prepares her lesson plan for her student teaching.

The Zimmer Reviews



by Brian Zimmer

Just in case I didn't mention it before, I love springtime. The weather starts to get warmer, the manure melts giving us that fine scent, and the album releases are taken to another level.

If you are still listening to last years releases, stop, take a breath and catch up with the rest of us in the here and now. So many good albums, not enough time to listen to them all.

What never ceases to amaze me is contempt for new music that people have. I think that everybody likes to think that they know a lot about music and that what they like is the only really good type of music. Well, I learned my lesson long ago that I really don't know that much about music, and what I like is possibly not the best bunch of tunes.

I still couldn't tell you who the best guitarist of all time is. Nor could I ever give you the best bass player, the best lyricist, or the best live band (maybe The Who). I simply couldn't narrow it down to a few out of thousands, few could!

I am reminded of what we all learned in grade school (when everybody should graduate and start work in society): What's popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular. In music especially, popularity doesn't denote quality.

The next time you haven't heard of a band like Pulp, be content to know that you are just a victim of pop culture and give them a listen. Don't think that just because you haven't heard of them they suck. Most importantly don't think that they are new because their music never rubbed your orbs (Pulp has been around for 15 years).

Now for some reviews of musicians you may not have heard before now but ones that don't suck.

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds *Murder Ballads*. Nick Cave joins up with the Bad Seeds after a couple of years of doing some really solid solo work (much of which can be found on the soundtracks of *Batman Forever* and *Far Away, So Close*). *Murder Ballads* takes the idea of a concept album and really gives it a new spin. For those of you in my remedial Core class that haven't already figured it out, *Murder Ballads* consists

of, well, murder ballads. Each song delivers its message of homicide, self-destruction, chicanery, and/or sorrow with a sweet melody, powerful dynamic and the usual frightening deep voice of Cave. Nick Cave is accompanied on this album by former Pogues lead, Shane McGowan, Polly Jean Harvey of P.J. Harvey, and Australian yum-yum drop, Kylie Minogue (I know you remember *The Locomotion*). The songs are cleverly written and the sequencing is perfect. The only weak point, in my opinion, is the version of Bob Dylan's, "Death is Not the End." It seems a bit too "We Are The World" -ish for my taste, but of the people I have talked to, I seem to be in the minority on this one. This is not one to dance to and it is definitely not one to seduce your partner with (keeping in mind, SJC, especially the Puma Pound are intolerant). Originality: 9.0 (its a concept album, dummy) Sound Quality: 7.6 Musicianship: 8.5 Overall: 8.4

Gin Blossoms *Congratulations, I'm Sorry*. This one is not much of a disappointment to me because I've never thought too much of Spin magazine's other poster children, Gin Blossoms. Unlike the new Stone Temple Pilots, Gin Blossoms don't seem to change too much and don't seem to be too interested in it. Rumor had it that this album was supposed to be called, "Another Miserable Experience," due to the fact that it offered, not, even one new sound from these guys. Granted, some of the singles are catchy and have pretty decent sing-along characteristics but it is the same old Gin Blossoms minus the songs that made New Miserable Experience a pretty good album. I'm not talking about "Hey Jealousy". I'm talking about the songs that included accordion, some organ or piano, and tried some different beats or measures. Mr. Yuck says, "Stay away kids, this is bad for you!"

Originality: 3.4 Sound Quality: 7.3 Musicianship: 5.8 Overall: 4.7

Keep your eyes and ears open for the following releases on 90.5 WPUM-FM, Puma Rock (still not heard in the STUDENTS cafeteria)! Lush, *Loveline* (Kicks butt), The Pogues, *Pogues Mahone* (Very Solid), Bad Religion, *The Gray Race* (Back to the formula that made them great), and finally Country/Rock artist Steve Earle storms back to Earth, from where ever the hell he was, with the album, *I Feel Alright*. Word!

Athletic Profile: Senior Captain Jake Chapman leads by example

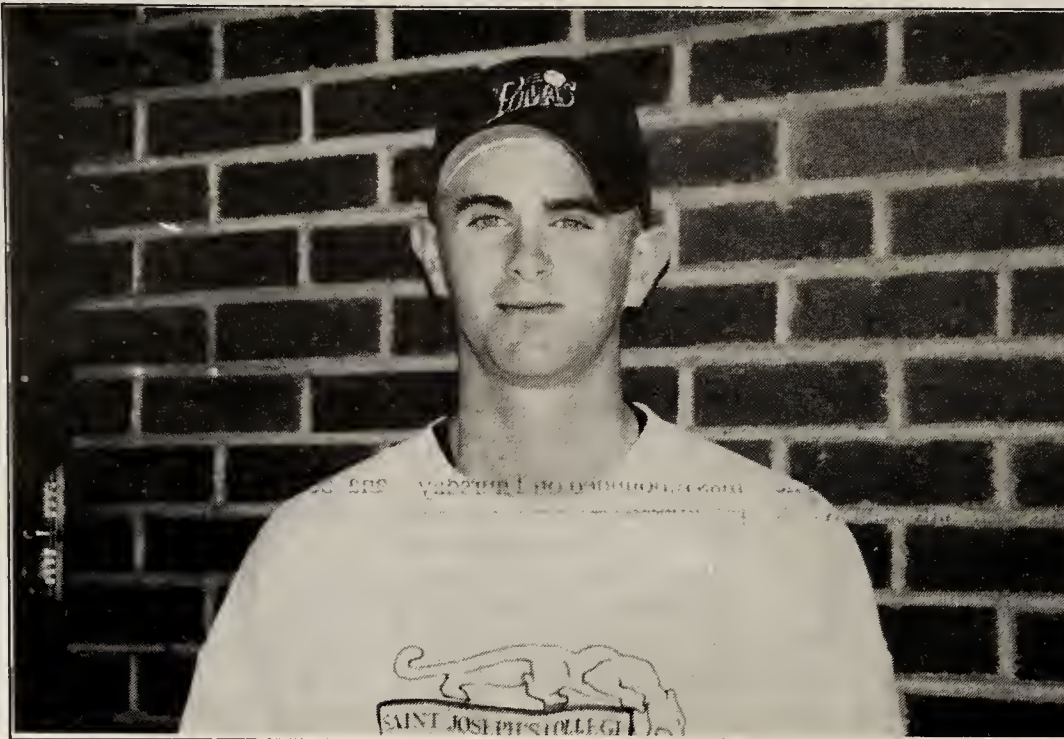
By Erin Breetzke

Determined, competitive, intelligent and dedicated are just a few ways to describe one of Saint Joseph's College baseball team captains, Senior pitcher John Jacob (Jake) Chapman.

As a member of the baseball team, Rensselaer native, Chapman has overcome his biggest obstacle, which led him to develop his highly competitive edge.

"My biggest challenge was to overcome the small school label some athletes receive as freshmen. Chances are very limited and in order to gain respect, you must perform well when you get the chance," Chapman explained. "It took two years to get a 'legit' shot, but in a good program, striving for a simple goal as just getting to play should push you to work harder than everyone else," he added.

Throughout his four year career on the team, the six foot one, 180 pound Chapman has made many accomplishments. These include being a four-time



member of the all-academic, all-conference team. He was also a member of the First Team All-Conference and a Second Team All-Midwest Region. One accomplishment this season is his new role as a team captain.

"I'm always trying to motivate more by example than by words," Chapman explained. "I'm more laid back, I'm not a hard guy," he added.

A major occurrence in Chapman's life occurred last year when he was drafted in

the 38th round by the Minnesota Twins. Chapman turned down the offer for reasons more important than money.

"I wanted to get my degree, and money didn't matter," Chapman stated. "I wanted to come back for the [College] World Series because we have a really good team this year," he added.

Baseball, as well as his teammates, have played a key role in Chapman's life thus far.

"It [baseball] keeps

me competitive and teaches me to strive for the highest goals," Chapman commented. "They [the players] give me respect and challenge me every day and will never allow me to settle for mediocrity. I'm always surrounded by good people," he added.

Chapman has learned a lot in his college baseball career, and he will take many new experiences with him after graduating this spring.

"I hope to take from baseball a satisfied feeling of accomplishment. Accomplishment in the sense of fitting within a team of great players and individuals, meeting and exceeding the team goals, and hopefully making the major leagues," Chapman stated. "If I can get a taste of success in baseball, I hope to bring that into other aspects of my life," he added.

With a good head on his shoulders, Chapman is a determined person and sees himself as being successful in the future.

"I plan to play ball as long as I can, and when that is over, I plan to go to law school. Maybe become an agent or team lawyer," Chapman commented.

Without a doubt, his family has been a major influence on his life and has supported him greatly in his endeavors.

"My family has always supported me in baseball. It started from the time I could throw and will continue until my career is over," Chapman stated. "They're the best. I couldn't ask for a better home to grow up in."

SJC Softball team has new coach, fresh outlook for Spring

By John Osborne

It is spring time again at Saint Joseph's and that means it is time for the Lady Pumas softball team to hit the field. After a disappointing 8-20 season that failed to see the team live up to its potential, they decided it was time for a change. That change came in the form of new Head Coach Mark Settle.

"I enjoy coaching and the challenge of improving them," Settle explains. "At this level your aim is to win, but there is

still a lot of teaching to be done. Many of the players know the fundamentals but not how to win."

Settle and his assistants Chad Creager and Steven Furnish have also had to deal with the problem every new coach has of building a relationship with his players. Settle was the assistant coach last year so he does not have to start from square one. "We get along pretty well," he said. "The assistant coach usually comes out as the good guy so it's been different, but the Florida trip helped build our relationship."

Sophomore Susan Meritt said that having Settle in charge is a welcome change from the past. "He is very soft-spoken. He doesn't yell or throw bats, but he's still enthusiastic and offers constructive criticism. That is something we really needed this year."

As things stand right now, the team has a 2-6 record after their trip to Orlando, Florida over spring break. That trip marked the first time they had actually been on a field this year, and even though their record may not



Ready for action, Senior Danielle Figlio anticipates a hit.

Continued on page 7

Baseball team opens season with trip to Boca Raton

By Kevin Collins

It's that time of year again, time for the Puma baseball team to knock the dust off the bats and loosen up those throwing arms as they get the season under way. Over Spring break the Pumas made their second trip to Boca Raton, Florida, to take advantage of the warmer climate and work out the kinks and early season errors.

The team stayed in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton and enjoyed a week of soaking in the hot tubs and pools, when they were not playing baseball of course. The usual day included the team waking up for breakfast around 6:30 AM and then leaving to go play the day's games. After they got done with the baseball for the day the guys usually had some free time in the evenings during which they could do something just for fun. Some guys chose to hang around the hot tub and pool, while others chose to go play minierature golf and do some

go-cart racing. There were also those who decided to just hang out with some pizza and play cards. No matter what they were doing, the team never lost their focus on what they were there for, to play baseball.

In comparison to last year when the team returned to Saint Joseph's campus with a record of 5 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties, this year was not quite as good. The Pumas were only able to pull out a record of 4 wins and 5 losses. Centerfielder Art Carrison said that even though the team only went 4-5 he thought that it was good in the respect that it made the team, which had risen to a ranking of seventh in the Nation, realize that they had to work hard everyday and could not just go out and win automatically.

Game by game the Pumas got the trip off to a good start by beating Mercy College in both games of Sunday's doubleheader by scores of 13-1 and 15-0. Next

the Pumas beat Michigan State University on Monday 9-6 by scoring three runs in the top of the 9th inning and then closing MSU out in the bottom of the inning. The team had Tuesday off for relaxation time. Then on Wednesday, the team played the first two games of a three game series against Barry University, dropping both games 7-1 and 2-1. The Pumas rebounded on Thursday

as they beat Barry 7-5 by once again scoring the winning runs in the 9th inning. The last three games of the trip were not good for the Pumas as they lost all three. The Pumas fell to Lynn University 7-5, Slippery Rock 10-7, and Ashland 2-1.

Currently the team is 7-5 overall and 1-0 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. They have won their last three games since returning to Indiana, beating Purdue University

7-0, IUPUI-Indianapolis 15-3, and Bellarmine College 18-3. The Pumas were scheduled to play Kentucky Wesleyan on the same road-trip as Bellarmine, but a rainy environment forced the Pumas to cut the trip short and come home.

The Pumas will be playing Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday March 23rd right here at Gil Hodges Memorial Field.



Pumas shake hands with Barry University players after a come-from-behind Saint Joe win.

Track team looks for championship in GLVC

Coach says goals for 1996 season are realistic, attainable

By Jamie Riberto

As the weather is warming up, so are the men's and women's track teams here at Saint Joseph's. They are striving towards their goal to be the 1996 Great Lakes Valley Conference champions.

Both the track teams just finished their indoor season and are looking forward to a terrific outdoor season, where they hope to achieve all their goals. Determined, confident, competitive, and inspired are just a few words to

describe the track and field athletes here at St. Joseph's College.

The men's team is hoping to finish first in conference and qualify seven to ten athletes for outdoor nationals in May. The women's team also hopes to win conference and qualify eight to twelve women for outdoor nationals.

The physical demand on the team has yet to begin to subside and will not for a few more weeks. The distance runners are putting in many extra miles as well as the sprinters. The field team, too, is putting in many more reps than usual, but all this

hard work will benefit the team in the end.

Coach Massoels does not think the goals are unrealistic. However, he does not think that they are unattainable either. "The track team is in a position right now to achieve their goals."

You can find the talented track team practicing every weekday afternoon in front of the rec center. Every Wednesday night after practice the team listens to Coach Massoels' inspirational speeches.

As their coach says, "You have to work hard to be good!"

Continued from page 6

Softball team optimistic about season

reflect it, a lot was accomplished.

"It was a good trip because we got onto a field, into some game situations, and it was good for bonding. Last year things took longer to come together."

Sophomore Kathy Braun echoed her coach's feelings about the trip. "For our first time on the field we did exceptionally well," Braun said. "In the first game we had seven strong innings, which was different from last year."

The Pumas open their official regular season Wednesday against Olivet and then travel to Kentucky Wesleyan to participate in a Conference Cluster over the

weekend. Settle said he will suit up nineteen players, and that their potential to reach their pre-season goal of a .500 season seems very much in their grasp. They will be lead by Seniors Danielle Figlio, Liz Olivencia, and Junior Captain Michelle Heilman. Settle sees the team's success hinging on the Pumas ability to play defense and not lose their heads when times get tough.

"Our pitchers are good and strong and we're a good hitting team. Our defense has to come through. If we do the little things right everything else will take care of itself."

Reflections of Faith



Photo by Jen Palecek

Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. Jack fell down and broke his crown and Jill (being the resourceful person that she was) quickly dialed "nine-eleven" on her cellular phone and administered first aid to Jack since she had seen this sort of thing happen on TV.

On the way to the hospital, Jill dialed Jack's mother's "beeper" and left a message on her father's answering machine. Once there, she faxed a message to her lawyer to find out if Jack had grounds to sue. This updated fairytale is a little far-fetched, but hey! Aren't all fairy tales? Besides, perhaps it would speak to modern children far more than the simple stories of by-gone days.

Children have changed, folks. They seem to grow up far faster than they used to. Often they know more than many adults when it comes to certain areas. I mean--I have to study a remote control to find the power button, but my kid sister can set the sleep timer on the TV,

program the VCR, and play computerized chess (all at the same time)!

Instead of being innocent little tikes who play in the sandbox and watch Captain Kangaroo, most children are becoming munchkin-ized yuppies who have a work-like schedule at day care and toys that play all by themselves (and LOTS of them I might add). They know how to read books that are far more informative than the ones I read about Dick and Jane.

I mean, I was content to play with dirt at that age! But nowadays, those push 'em yourself miniature John Deere Tractors have turned into Power Ranger Paraphernalia and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Pizza Throwers. The basic doll has turned into the glow-in-the-dark, changes-color-in-water, teller-of-the -future, career Barbie.

There's a whole new breed of children being raised out there today. Kiddies watch cartoons now that would give me nightmares. They know more about computers, technical equipment, and TV shows than I'll ever know in my whole life.

And No, I don't plan to die early. So think twice if a professor asks you to babysit, and don't trip any little ones at that fancy roller rink in town or they just might sue.



Several Saint Joe's students went to Eagle Butte, South Dakota to work with Habitat For Humanity over Spring Break.

(I Hope)
Heather Moser

Strangely enough, I'm alive without your love
and don't mind nearly as much as I should.
I may forget this small fact, though,
when you tell me you met a new girl
and she watches the news
and thinks video games are a valuable way to spend time
and actually likes your goatee.
But I will remember that you snore
and forget to cut your fingernails sometimes
and you can't remember the last time you tipped a waitress
and it will all come back to me
(I hope.)

COMING SOON...

The Why Store

opening act: The Ledge

date: Saturday, April 20

time: 8:00 p.m.

location: Fieldhouse

price: advance sale student discount (with i.d) \$5
non-SJC/ Day of Event Price \$7

ticket sales are tentatively set to begin on Monday,
March 25 and will be available in the bookstore

For more information, call the Student Activities office at ext. 6142.

Student Has a Snowy Spring Break

by Kathleen Brass

For this week's article I have decided to address a more serious topic than that of the last edition of the Observer. I want to talk about something ground-breaking, personal, and oh-so important. The issue is that of Spring Break!

Now, I know that some of you tackled the beaches of Florida, California, and even the far depths of Mexico. It must have been difficult! But, some of us less privileged members of the SJC community spent our week off in much less exotic conditions.

I, for example, braved the two feet of snow in my yard to walk my dogs. The snow resulted from a snow storm that hit Chicago on the first day of March, a time when winter is usually ending. It's

not that I do not enjoy having parts of my body going numb from coldness, but I think that the 80-degree conditions of Florida sounded slightly more appealing.

Another thing about this particular break that really melts my snow is the fact that the spring break for Saint Joseph's College came about 2 weeks earlier than any other school in history (I am only joking about this point). In reality, I am very happy that I got a week off to get caught up and relax. The excess cold and snow gave me reason to stay inside and capture the warmth of a Microbiology book.

Also during this spring break there were some kind souls who spent their precious breaks making the world a better place. I salute these people. First they endured long trips to either Appalachia or South Da-

kota. Then, the people in South Dakota got a taste of what a spring break at a high of 10 degrees was really like.

Still, I am sure even more people had worse conditions over break than I did. I haven't met any of them yet, but I am sure they are out there. I just remember that I am now at an advantage.

All you beach-goers out there who feel no pity for those less fortunate than yourselves when it comes to vacationing, remember that excess sun-bathing leads to skin cancer and early wrinkling. Smile if you will, but in 30 years I will have the upper hand. I sincerely hope that everyone did have a wonderful spring break, even if their idea of fun was huddling in front of the heater trying to keep warm.